



Optometry Wales Optometreg Cymru

FOR RELEASE ON 14 February 2025

Optometry Wales Welcomes Additional Financial Support Following Successful Negotiations

Optometry Wales is pleased to announce that, following recent contract negotiations with the Welsh Government and NHS Wales, there will be additional financial support for the optometry profession in Wales. This collaborative effort marks a significant step forward in enhancing eye care services across Wales.

Since the introduction of the new optometry contract, Optometry Wales has worked closely with the Welsh Government and NHS Wales. The conclusion of this year's negotiations has led to increased support, particularly focused on higher clinical pathways. These pathways are designed to facilitate the transfer of services from hospital eye services to primary care optometry practices located on the high street.

Optometry Wales has long championed the ability of optometrists and dispensing opticians to deliver high-quality services in their local communities. This new investment comes a year after significant reforms to optometry services in Wales and the implementation of the new optometry contract, highlighting the Welsh Government's commitment to addressing the growing demand on hospital eye services, and the available skills within the optometry and dispensing optician workforce.

The negotiated fees and additional support will empower community optometrists and dispensing opticians to operate at the top of their license, ensuring that Wales remains a leader in clinical service delivery and continues to drive reform within the UK.

Over the past 12 months, Optometry Wales has actively engaged in constructive dialogue and collaboration with NHS Wales and the Welsh Government to advance optometry contract reform. While there is still work to be done to ensure a balanced approach across all General Ophthalmic Services pathways in Wales, the outcome of this year's negotiations guarantees further support for all service providers, enhancing the clinical services that optometrists and dispensing opticians can offer.

Optometry Wales looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Welsh Government and NHS Wales, embracing regular engagement through meetings to address key issues affecting the profession in Wales.

As the representative body for optometrists and dispensing opticians, Optometry Wales encourages all members of the profession to engage with their regional optometric committees. This interaction is vital to ensure that ongoing discussions reflect the diverse and progressive workforce throughout Wales.